

29. MITES FROM THE GILLS OF THE UNIO, *ANODONTA MARGINALIS*

In course of normal dissections of the common fresh water mussel, *Anodonta marginalis*, presence of mites in the gills has been recorded. The mussels were collected in the month of February 1956 from the ponds near about Calcutta. Almost all the specimens examined were found to be infected with the mites in varying extent. The number of mites in the gills ranged from two to twenty-five. They were found to occupy the spaces between the lamellae of the gills.

The mites appear to belong to the genus *Tombiäium*. They are pale brownish in colour and are somewhat oval in outline, and all the walking legs are hairy. The chelicerae are simple hook-like structures and gradually taper at the outer extremity.

Body length from tip to tip (including the mouth parts) varies between .708 to .712 mm. The breadth of the body between the 2nd and 3rd leg is between .531 to .540 mm. The average length of the legs is 6.49 mm.

It would be very interesting to study the pathological implications on the gills due to the presence of these mites. Incidentally, in the present case no visible change in the gills was apparent.

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REFERENCE

Shiple, A. E., Warburton, & others (1909): Cambridge Natural History Vol. 4.

30. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ECOLOGY AND
BEHAVIOUR OF THE COMMON INDIAN APPLE-SNAIL
PILA GLOBOSA (SWAINSON)

(With two text-figures)

Pila globosa is studied as a type of Gastropoda in most of the Indian Universities. It is a freshwater and amphibious snail supposed to have descended from a marine ancestor which became established in estuarine waters. Lal and Saxena (1952) have demonstrated that this snail possesses uricotelic metabolism, hence its penetration in freshwater appears to be secondary. The present observations were made during a period of two years near the lakes of Chintah, Kathota and Marayon in the vicinity of Lucknow (India), when the author had to collect the snails for studies on the blood and excretory constituents of *Pila globosa*.

For the greater part of the year *Pila globosa* aestivates under ground but appears in the water during the hot monsoon months of July and August in Northern India. This is the most vital part of